SOUTH VIET NAM
In Struggle

SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

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editorial

On the occasion of a historic day: March 19

THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE RESOLVED TO SURGE AHEAD

NINETEEN years ago, in collusion with the French colonialists in their dirty war of aggression in Indochina, the American imperialists staged a blatant provocation of a military nature toward the South Vietnamese people. They sent to the port of Saigon the aircraft-carrier Bixer and the warships Stickell and Anderson in preparation for an air and naval manoeuvre to intimidate our people.

The provocateurs met with a prompt reply from the towns folk who shouted to them: "Down with US interventionists!" and "US imperialists go home". True to our traditional undauntedness in the face of foreign invasion, and relying on the strength of our entire people's solidarity, on March 19, 1950 nearly a million Saigonese went out into the streets and proceeded to the harbour with the demand that the United States end its intervention. In coordination with this political away, the city's valiant guerillas accurately shelled the US vessels; the interventionists scampered, abandoning their contemplated show of strength.

By their first victory over the yankees the Saigon population and armed forces set to their compatriots all over the country an example of indomitable courage, utmost determination and resourcefulness, at the same time exposing the brutality and weakness of US imperialism right in the 1950.

In the past nineteen years, the wrathful shout "US imperialists go home!" of the heroic saigonese people have become the watchword accompanying the uninterrupted and impetuous struggle of the entire Vietnamese people. Since the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements the latter, in furtherance of their unsubmissive spirit, have tided over untold difficulties and hardships in their

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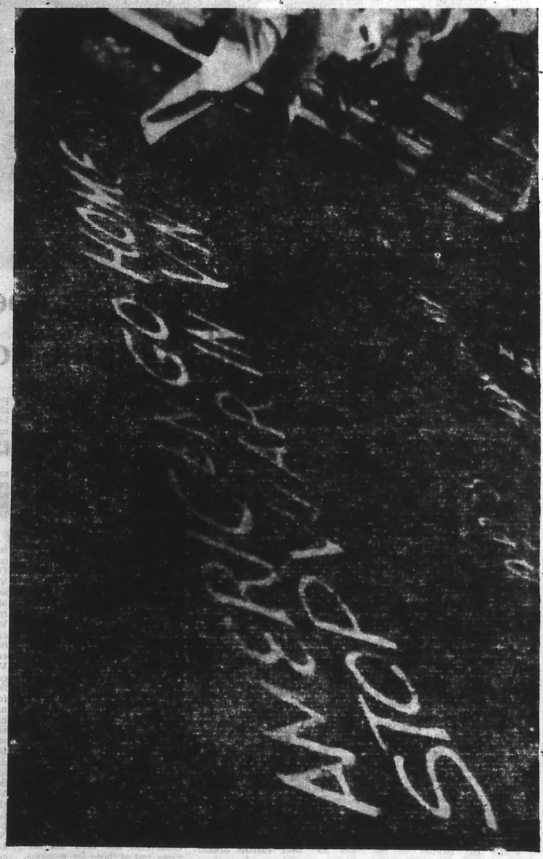


"AMERICAN GO HOME" HAS RESOUNDED FROM THE HEART OF SAIGON SINCE 1950 AND NOW BECOMES COMMON SLOGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM URBAN PEOPLE AND THAT OF VIET NAM AS A WHOLE.

Photo above: Right in Saigon, students wrote on the pavement "US go home", "Stop war in Viet Nam!"

So long as the US imperialists still invade Viet Nam, we still continue to fight them back.

(page 2)

A SURGICAL OPERATION

(page 7)

Dr Phung Van Cung:

So long as the US imperialists still invade Viet Nam, we still continue to fight them back

A meeting was recently held at Hanoi to welcome the visiting delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation headed by Dr Phung Van Cung.

Amidst thunderous applause, Dr Phung Van Cung went to the rostrum. In his speech, the head of the South Viet Nam NFL delegation quoted President Ho Chi Minh as saying:

"South Viet Nam is blood of Viet Nam's blood, flesh of Viet Nam's flesh. Rivers may dry up, and mountains wear out, but that truth decidedly will never change".

He strongly condemned the US imperialists for brazenly sabotaging the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, conducting an intervention, a "special war", then a "local war" in South Viet Nam in an attempt to turn it into a new-type colony and military base of the US, and prolong the partition of Viet Nam.

"But, he said, " the South Vietnamese people have heroically risen up and continually fought against the aggressors under various forms. It is in this high revolutionary tide that the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has come into being. The NFL has rallied greater and greater patriotic forces in South Viet Nam.

Under the banner of the NFL, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have brought into full play their ardent patriotism and revolutionary heroism. With a correct line and closely combining the political struggle with the armed fight, they have repeatedly inflicted deadly blows on the US imperialists and their henchmen.

Dr. Phung Van Cung added: "It is just now when the enemy is much vaunting about their imaginary "victories" and alleging that the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have been "exhausted" that the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have dealt on their enemy new heavy blows since the night from February 22 to 23, 1969. The concerted attacks early this Spring were launched against almost all US-puppet military bases and dens in the cities, province and district capitals. People in the areas temporarily occupied by the enemy, in close co-ordination with the liberation armed forces, continue to rise up and wrest back the right to be the master in many places.

In the towns, the struggle of people of various strata has been broadened day by day. Workers and other labouring people, students, intellectuals, industrialists, tradesmen; members of various religious communities and people of various nationalities are determined to wipe out cruel enemy agents and wreck the enemy's grips. The people's struggle for the restoration of peace, for the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and for the setting up of a peace cabinet is rendering the puppet administration more shaky.

Dr Phung Van Cung went on:

"The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has its own valiant armed forces with marvellous exploits and controls large liberated areas covering four fifths of South Viet Nam's territory with over 11 million people and a system of revolutionary people's administration which really represents the people's legitimate interests and aspirations. The South Viet Nam NFL has become strong and its prestige heightened at home and abroad. Our friends in all the five continents and the whole progressive mankind sympathize with, support and assist the South Viet Nam people and NFL, and the entire people of heroic Viet Nam.

The situation in South Viet Nam has been developing in favour of the revolution. The South Viet Nam NFL is in a victorious position, holds the military initiative and has an absolute political and moral superiority.

The victories of strategic import of the South Vietnamese people and the people throughout Viet Nam are at the same time defeats of strategic import for the enemy. The US imperialists have had to cease unconditionally the bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN. This is a great setback of the enemy. The fact that the US has had to give up its "search and destroy" strategy and carry out now its "clear and hold" strategy in South Viet Nam is an yet greater failure of the enemy. All this proves that the South Vietnamese people, the people throughout Viet Nam and the world people are winning and will certainly completely triumph".

Dr Phung Van Cung emphasized:

In its November 3, 1968 statement, the South Viet Nam NFL put forth a five-point solution to the South Viet Nam problem. So far the Paris Conference has held six sessions, but at those six sessions, the representatives of the US government and the Saigon puppet administration always rehearsed the old allegations to plead for the US aggression and hide the traitorous character of the Thieu-Ky Huong administration".

"The US government's contension is that it is to defend the self-determination of the South Vietnamese people" that it has sent US expeditionary troops to South Viet Nam. There can be, indeed, no greater impertinence, when US bombs and shells are, daily and hourly, killing the people in a savage manner and devastating fields, gardens, villages and hamlets!"

"The whole progressive mankind has been sternly condemning the crime of aggression and crime of extermination perpetrated by the US imperialists", he stressed.

Dr Phung Van Cung added: "Such is the real situation in South Viet Nam. The irrefutable truth is this: the US is the aggressor in South Viet Nam and the Saigon administration is only a gang of Vietnamese traitors. All the sufferings of the South Vietnamese people have been caused by the US war of aggression and US neo-colonialism. If the South Viet Nam issue is to be correctly settled and a stop is to put to all the sufferings of the South Vietnamese people, the cause that has brought about such a situation must be done away with, i.e. to put an end to the US aggression, and withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, so that the Vietnamese people may decide their own affairs, without foreign interference. The five-point stand of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has charted the correct path to settle the South Viet Nam issue".

He emphasized:

"The Vietnamese people want peace very much. But that must be peace in independence and freedom. So long as the US persists in stepping up the war and in its illusion of lording it over in South Viet Nam through the medium of its neo-colonialism, the South Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, will fight on resolutely, till not a single aggressor is left on their beloved land".

He went on:

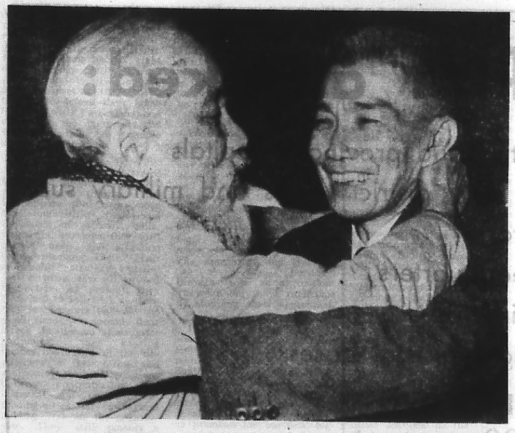
"The SVNNFL delegation takes this opportunity to express deep gratitude to the peoples and governments of the brotherly socialist countries, the people and government of Cambodia, the Lao people and the Lao Patriotic Front, the peoples and governments of the peace and justice-loving countries, the progressive organizations in the world and the progressive people in the US for their warm sympathy, vigorous support and ever greater assistance to the South Viet Nam people and FNL in the latter's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation."

After quoting President Ho Chi Minh as stating that "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," Dr Phung Van Cung said in conclusion: "So long as the US imperialists still invade Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people still continue to fight them back".

Photo (above)

— *Presidium of the meeting of the Hanoi population welcoming the NFL delegation. From left to right: Chief Priest of the Tien Thien sect of the Cao Dai religion Nguyen Van Ngoi (NFL), Truong Chinh (DRVN), Phung Van Cung (NFL), Ton Duc Thang (DRVN), Superior Thich Thien Hao (NFL), Pham Van Dong (DRVN) General Vo Nguyen Giap (DRVN), Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba (NFL).*

Photo : VNA



PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH AND Dr PHUNG VAN CUNG, HEAD OF THE NFL DELEGATION VISITING NORTH VIET NAM

ACTIVITIES OF THE NFL DELEGATION IN NORTH VIET NAM

At the invitation of the DRVN Government and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Committee, the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee sent a delegation led by Doctor Phung Van Cung, Vice-President of its Presidium, to visit North Viet Nam.

The delegation first called on President Ho Chi Minh. The President inquired about the struggle and living conditions of the people and combatants of South Viet Nam, about the health of President Nguyen Huu Tho, of the other NFL leaders and of the members of the delegation whom he asked to convey the affectionate greetings of the people in the North and his own to their southern compatriots. He wished that the latter would eagerly emulate to score feats and drive out the American aggressors.

The delegation also called on the leaders of the DRVN National Assembly, Government and Fatherland Front and received delegations of many Hanoi and provincial mass organizations.

The delegation visited a number of historical and cultural relics, factories, co-operatives and schools.

Premier Pham Van Dong gave a reception in its honour.

The Hanoi population held a grand meeting to welcome the delegation. At the gathering Doctor Tran Duy Hung, President of the City Administrative Committee and Doctor Phung Van Cung delivered speeches, extolling the close solidarity between the people in the two zones and stressing the firm determination of the entire people to fight and defeat the American aggressors.

On March 10, 1969, a delegation of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front led by Hoang Quoc Viet, Presidium member and President of the Viet Nam Trade-Union Confederation met the NFL delegation.

The two delegations informed each other of the situation in the two parts of the country: solidarity of the people, combat, production, building of the rear and achievements registered in their resistance to US aggression, for national salvation. The delegations exchanged experiences on Front work and were very glad to note that the policy of broad unity advocated by President Ho Chi Minh and the NFL policy of rallying all popular strata in the South had mobilized the whole nation to fight against the American invaders. As one in the appraisal of the situation, the two delegations asserted that the sacred and urgent task of the entire Vietnamese people is to strengthen their solidarity, broaden the Front and steadily push ahead the resistance to US aggression until complete victory so as to liberate the South, defend the North and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the country.

The meeting took place in a congenial atmosphere as between blood-sealed brothers.

EDITORIAL

THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE...

(Continued from page 1)

patriotic fight which has foiled the US imperialists' "Special war" and is getting the better of their "limited war". More than 1,200,000 American, puppet and satellite troops equipped with up-to-date weapons have proved incapable of coping with the onslaught of the heroic armed forces and people of South Viet Nam.

Obviously, the US aggressors are being heavily defeated. However, extremely stubborn, warlike and cunning, they still stick to their aggressive scheme, their dream of swaying the South Vietnamese people through the instrumentality of neo-colonialism. They cling to the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration and increasing "mopping-up operations", B-52 bombings, toxic-chemical-spraying, the massacre of the population, the destruction of rural and urban areas, and on the strength of the fascist October 1968 law, savagely repressing the movement of the urban population for peace, democracy and better living conditions. In North Viet Nam the yankees carry on reconnaissance air flights and the bombing and shelling of a number of areas in flagrant violation of the DRVN sovereignty and security. At the Paris conference they obdurately maintain their stand as aggressors, not wanting to engage in serious talks with the NFL with a view to a political settlement of the South Vietnamese problem.

Confronted with the stubborn attitude and the criminal acts of aggression of the United States, and in the flush of their great victories scored in all fields during a year of general offensive and uprising, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam again have just dealt thundering blows at the enemy in large cities, provincial capitals, district towns and military sectors, just as at their leading bodies, airfields and logistic bases. They have inflicted substancial losses in manpower upon him.

Militarily, the US-puppets are sloping down ward into an irremediably passive position and a quandary. Politically and diplomatically, they are lapsing into an ever more serious crisis and isolation.

As a frantic reaction to our repeated offensives, on the one hand the US aggressors accuse the Liberation forces of having 'struck at the civilian population" and on the other, they threaten to give an "appropriate reply" and to resume the bombing of North Viet Nam.

These are impudent pronouncements, a clumsy challenge and the trick of a heavily pummelled bandit. Let it be known that the yankees will lose their time intimidating our armed forces and people who are now badly mauling half a million US professional troops.

Once again, we South Vietnamese people reaffirm that no cruel trick, no intimidation of the US imperialists or their henchmen can shake our iron-determination to fight and win. In order to escape our blows there is no other alternative for them than to agree to a political solution based on the respect of our sacred national rights. The United States which started aggression must stop it. United States and satellite expeditionary troops who came to South Viet Nam and have caused suffering and mourning to our people must pull out completely and unconditionally, and let them settle themselves their own affairs on the basis of the Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation without United States interference. This is the basic content of the NFL five-point stand which thoroughly embodies the will and aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, and tallies with South Vietnamese realities, with the spirit and fundamental provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law.

People in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and progressive people the world over including the people of the United States, who have always sympathized with the South Vietnamese people and their National Liberation Front, and lent them valuable support and assistance, approve of this logic and reasonable five-point stand. They have shown their militant solidarity which greatly encouraged us and for which we wish to thank them sincerely.

The South Vietnamese people are deeply attached to peace, genuine peace in independence and liberty. Nothing can possibly prevent them from fighting off the US aggressors to achieve independence and liberty. So long as the United States does not give up its aggressive design, continues to encroach upon Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and refuses to withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people resolutely use their sacred self-defence right to deliver it well-deserved blows. Promoting the March 19 spirit and bringing their strong, winning position into full play, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam will follow up their victories and strike more accurate and powerful hits until there is not the shadow of an American aggressor on their beloved land.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

Military notebook

The PLAF attacked:

From 23 Feb. to 4 March 1969

- 36 cities and provincial capitals
- Over 100 district towns and military sub-sectors
- 35 headquarters
- 38 airfields
- 17 big logistical bases

and wiped out:

- 45,000 enemy troops

The Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces on March 10 issued a communique on the big victories recorded by the PLAF since February 22, 1969.

The communique said :

FROM the night of February 22-23, giving full play to their mettle of general offensive, and widespread uprising and in the flush of their previous victories, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces, from Quang Tri-Thua Thien in the North to the Ca Mau tip in the South, have simultaneously launched fierce assaults on the various hideouts of the enemy, causing them very heavy losses.

In the ten days ending March 4, 1969, the PLAF sprang ground or artillery attacks on over 400 positions of the enemy. These included :

— 36 *cities and provincial capitals.*

— 17 *big logistical bases.*

— *Over 100 district towns, township, military sub-sectors, and other positions of the enemy.*

The enemy were also beaten on various important roads, on many interprovince roads, and important waterways.

Many of the targets were hit several times, some even on 10 occasions.

According to still incomplete statistics, within these 10 days of victorious fighting, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces :

— killed, wounded or captured about 45,000 enemy including over 23,000 GIs and nearly 2,000 satellite troops ;

— wiped out or inflicted heavy losses on 2 division HQs, 6 brigade HQs, 10 infantry battalions and 2 artillery battalions of the US, one Thailand infantry battalion, and 60 companies of US-puppet or satellite troops. The 25th infantry Division codenamed the "Tropical Lightning" and the Division "Americal" of the US were badly maimed. The 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division was crippled in Dau Tieng area ;

— shot down or destroyed on the ground 470 war planes of various kinds, and wrecked 1,170 military vehicles among them 500 tanks and armoured cars, and 250 heavy cannons and mortars ;

— burnt down over 100 ammunition and fuel storages, sank or shot ablaze 115 warships and combat launches, and blew up 35 bridges.

These exploits are outstanding in many respects. The achievements obtained in the ten days under review surpassed those in the first ten days of the Spring attacks last year, in terms of US live force destroyed.

THESE victories have many great significances, and have greatly affected the military situation.

First, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have firmly maintained and vigorously developed their position of continuous revolutionary offensive, and their initiative on the battlefield. Therefore, they have succeeded in attacking and rising up continuously, thus scoring repeated victories. The PLAF have further matured in many fields, and have become a heroic people's army. Their high determination to fight and to win, and their creative fighting methods have helped increase their combat efficiency. They are fighting victoriously and will certainly, together with the people, succeed in completely defeating the aggressors and the traitors.

In the said 10 days, in spite of the enemy's unusual efforts to strengthen their defences, the people and their armed forces have smashed all enemy defence lines and blazed away, simultaneously and intensely, at hundreds of enemy positions. The PLAF and the people have firmly maintained their initiative in their attacks, whether in the mountains, the plains, or the towns. All the three kinds of the people's armed forces have fought valiantly, and all the three attack prongs have yielded good results.

The PLAF's simultaneous actions on all the battlefields in the first days of Spring 1969 have further proven their skilful command, their high sense of organization and discipline, their high morale, their excellent sense of responsibility, and their big potential. The PLAF have applied with art a wide range of fighting methods, and achieved a very harmonious combination of the various battlefields and their various services. As a result, they have launched many attacks with very big successes, as in Da Nang, Long Binh Dau Tieng, Dong Du, etc. The PLAF artillery has inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy and has thus become a permanent threat to the last dens of the enemy.

In many places, together with the people, the regional armed forces and guerillas launched violent attacks on rural and mountainous areas still under enemy control, cutting communication lines, destroying "strategic hamlets", breaking the enemy's grip, punishing cruel enemy agents, disbanding "civil-guard" organizations, crushing the nests of enemy "Phoenix" spies and broadening the liberated zone.

During the fight, all the three kinds of the people's armed forces have made strenuous efforts to increase and consolidate their strength rapidly, thus making themselves more endurant for sustained fighting and creating conditions for yet bigger victories.

Shoulder to shoulder with the PLAF and in their high spirit of offensive and uprising, the people have always been prepared to overcome all hardships, difficulties and sacrifices, thus proving themselves to be a tremendous political forces.

In defiance of all repressive acts by the enemy, our people in the cities and towns and the surrounding areas have closely co-ordinated actions with the armed attacks by—punishing cruel enemy agents, putting up NFL flags, banderoles and slogans, holding public teach-ins on the Front's policy and on the program of action of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and demanding the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and formation of a peace-restoring cabinet to talk seriously with the Front.

Our people everywhere have actively contributed to the revolution, eagerly taking part in war supply groups and wholeheartedly assisting the People's Liberation Armed Forces. The people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, of various nationalities, have united closely to struggle under the glorious banner of the NFL, and to forge ahead with a resolve to wipe out the aggressors and liberate their home land.

Second, the victories of our armed forces and people in the last 10 days have once again inflicted serious losses on enemy forces, caused them many new and unsurmountable difficulties, and driven them deeper into passivity of which there can be no way out.

The US-puppets know nothing about the time, direction, targets, scale and methods of our attacks.

This is understandable, since the enemy are in a completely passive position and since our armed forces are on the continual offensive. The more we fight, the stronger we become, and the greater our initiative of attack and our flexibility.

The US-puppets have been dealt stinging blows, because their "clear and hold" strategy and "defence in depth" and "mobile defence" plans have failed to keep them from being attacked, because their losses in live force and war means have been very serious and because their beastful talks have been exploded.

Badly beaten, they have been trying in vain to hide their heavy defeats. They have tried to belittle our victories, but the stories they have made in Saigon and Washington and at the Paris Conference are a public avowal that they had taken serious beating.

The US-puppets have shamelessly given currency to their imaginary victories, and tried to present their situation as a "stable" one by holding fake elections at a number of villages and hamlets. They have also invented stories of our "attacks against civilians" and of a "violation of the understanding" that we should cease our attacks on the cities. They have also threatened our people. Our armed forces and people warn the aggressors that they should not forget their bitter failure in the North, and that they are facing a nation who has been fighting victoriously against them and who has never submitted to threats. The more crimes they commit, the deeper hatred, more fitting punishment and heavier defeats they will invite upon themselves.

The Vietnamese people are deeply imbued with the truth that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom", and are determined to excercise their sacred right of self-defence, to foil every plot of war intensification and prolongation of the US-puppets, to fight to defend their home land and their Fatherland, and not to let the aggressors and traitors continue to trample on their country.

The victories of our armed forces and people in the last 10 days have shown to the US-puppets that with more than one million troops and thousands of aircraft, guns, tanks and warships, they still cannot keep the situation from worsening. Their "clear and hold" strategy and defensive plans have all proved ineffective. At present, they have had to fall back to protect key points but at the same time to spread their forces to defend the outer perimeter, thus causing further confusion in the deployment of their forces and sharpening the contradictions between concentration and dispersal and between defending cities and towns and holding out in the country-side. They still possess a fairly numerous army which, however, is over-stretched. Their defence system looks close-knit but is fundamentally weak, and the more they fight, the more their weaknesses become apparent. In the face of our skilful attacks, the enemy have become more and more embarrassed, passive and frightened. They dared not throw sizeable forces into relief operations, instead have sent out reinforcements in a trickle. To defend Saigon and other cities and towns, the enemy had to abandon a number of important points along the borders. Swallowing the look, the discomfitted general Abrams, author of the "clear and hold" strategy which was designed to retrieve the failures of the US-puppets, is reviewing their losses which he conceded are even "bigger than those in the last Spring", and is racking his brains to revise the "defence in depth" plan.

Meanwhile, the puppet army and administration have become more frightened as their US bosses and the US expeditionary army which constitutes their prop are being beaten black and blue. The "de-americanization" of the war so much talked of by the US-puppets which is in essence a farce designed to prettify the puppets, has become an utter uncongruity.

We sternly warn the aggressors and their henchmen that they should not harbour any illusion that they alone have the right to use bombs and shells. The more they try to prolong the war in the hope of seeking a position of strength, the more humiliating and heavy setbacks and the bigger losses in manpower and materials they will sustain. The aggressors and traitors can never find "honour" through acts of aggression. They can only save their face by stopping their aggression.

Third, our victories gained since early this year have testified to the absolute correctness of the line of the South Viet Nam revolution and to the adequacy of our guide-lines and methods of attack which have created new developments of the situation as premises for our new, bigger victories.

Our Spring offensive and uprising have scored initial brilliant victories and are developing vigorously. We have embarked on the year 1969 with resounding victories. Very bright prospects are open to us this year. Our cumulate strength is growing rapidly. More than ever before, time is on our side. The enemy are feeling the bitter effect of the beating, and serious consequences in all spheres, military, political, diplomatic, economic and financial, are in store for them. They are weekening, but remain very stubborn. They are frantically bombing and shelling, struggling wildly like a beast in a ring of fire trying to find a way out. At the end of their tether, they will stop no savage acts to save their bloody and rotten regime. The fight of our armed forces and people will have to go through many more difficulties but is bound to win glorious victory. No force can check the advance of the South Viet Nam revolution.

UPSURGE OF THE SVN URBAN POPULATION'S STRUGGLE

SINCE the beginning of this year, the movement of the South Vietnamese urban population against US imperialism and the puppet administration has been developing with increasing impetus.

In every day struggles against the dismissal of workers and employees, and for improved living conditions, just as in teach-ins, gatherings and demonstrations against American aggression, millions of people shout: "Unconditional withdrawal US aggressor troops", "We want peace", "Formation of a peace cabinet", "Serious negotiations with the NFL".

In defiance of fascist type repressions by the Saigon authorities, the drive for peace, which has struck deep root into the towns and cities, is spreading far and wide, involving varied social strata of South Viet Nam: workers, labouring people, middle-school and university students and other sections of the youth, intellectuals among whom a great many men of letters and artists, religious believers, traders, industrialists and even a number of MPS, government officials, army officers, soldiers and policemen.

In conjunction with the drive for peace, struggles unfold without interruption to demand a better living standard and democratic freedoms.

Before and after Tet, over 100 Saigon trade-union organizations went on strike and held meetings with the participation of tens of thousands of workers and employees of, among others, Grall Hospital, Pasteur Hospital, Bus Company, Sogoi Company, tabacco manufacture Mitac, Viet Nam Brewery and the toffee-making branch. Employees of the Thu Duc laundry in the outskirts of Saigon, working for Pak Jung Hi troops, and electricians in Hue and Da Nang also joined forces. This struggle aimed mainly at compelling the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration on the one hand to reduce the prices of necessities of life(rice, sugar, electricity and water) and income tax imposed on wage-earners, to stop pressganging working people for alleged military obligations, and on the other to ensure that employers grant a year-end bonus equivalent to a monthly salary, pay compensation for injuries to workmen and put an end to unjustified dismissal.

A fight for peace, against the draft of students and drastic laws a imed at Saigon middle-schools and colleges erupted on Christmas eve. Virtually all the school children and students of the city's educational establishments took part in what the foreign press pictured as a "wrathful descent into the streets". The demonstrators demanded the immediate withdrawal of US troops, the rescinding without delay of the October 1968 fascist law

Stirring and very much noted by the press were Buddhist "peace pilgrimages". In January Buddhist bonzes, nuns and rank-and-file believers saying prayers and holding banderoles with the inscription "Peace to the earthly world" went from Saigon to the Mekong delta provinces. They demanded an end to the American war of aggression, the source of suffering and mourning. In February well-known monks, representatives of various Buddhist circles, and more than 20 Buddhist Trade-unions, organized two "year-end teach-ins" for peace at the An Quang Pagoda. Panic-stricken, the Americans and their henchmen secretely took into custody Reverend Thich Thien Minh of the An Quang tendency, who was bold enough to voice the legitimate aspirations of the Buddhist community. In this connection, an AFP dispatch said last March 3, "A great many An Quang bonzes organized a sleep less night at the Ky Vien Pagoda to demand that the authorities respond to the Buddhists' claim for peace."

On the other hand, struggles were also put up by families of armymen and policemen against the confinement of the latter in their quarters during Tet days, and the puppet administration's refusal to pay their salary in advance on this occasion.

Saigon traders and industrialists protested the drafting of their employees, the presure put on them to import too large an amount of US surplus counterpart goods, and the strangulation of national economy.

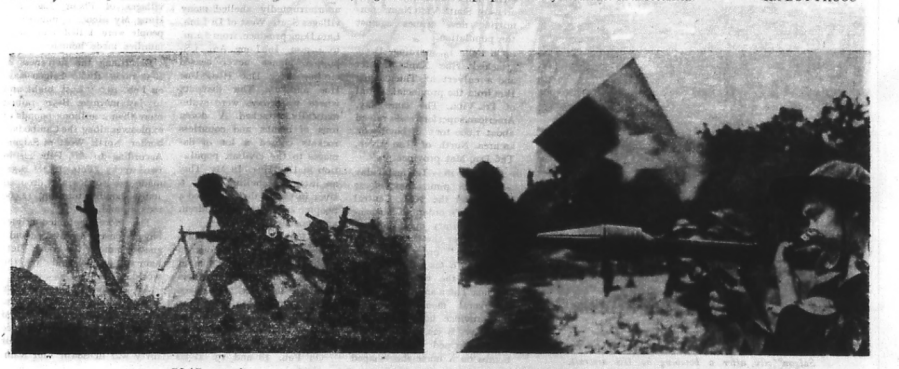
THE frantic reaction of the US aggressors and their lackeys, who dispose of a combined repression machine of colossal dimensions, and the presence of more than 100 battalions inside and outside the Saigon perimeter, have not in the least got the better of the people's resolve to fight them. The enemy themselves are frightened by the overwhelming upsurge of the revolutionary masses in Saigon and other urban centres of South Viet Nam.

As tidal waves, this revolutionary upsurge is striking deep into the adversary's last dens. With the strength of their unity, all strata of the urban population are building a large front in their struggle for the satisfaction of their vital demands—peace, independence, liberty, democracy and welfare. This front is seriously isolating the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique by stripping them of all political props at home and abroad.

The broad masses in the towns and cities clearly realize that to achieve the said sacred national rights there is no other alternative than their resolute struggle so as to force the US aggressors' pull out, to topple Thieu-Ky-Huong and set up a cabinet that will engage serious talks with the NFL for the restoration of peace.

The political struggle of the South Vietnamese town folk has earned the sympathy and support of their compotriots throughout the country and people around the world. It has made new steps forward, presents new features and puts forth sensible and legitimate demands. Drive after drive, political struggle combined with armed struggle and carried on with determination and momentum, has registered ever-greater successes.

HA DUY PHUOC



PLAF assault

AA bullets which effectively support the advance of the PLAF

To punish the US aggressors, our sacred inviolable right

At the seventh session of the four-party conference on Viet Nam opened at the International Conference Centre Paris on March 6, speaking first, Tran Buu Kiem, head of the NFL delegation, focussed on exposing the stubborn attitude of the US government which, instead of meeting the correct demands of the vietnamese people as raised by the delegates of the NFL and the DRVN at the Paris conference, is pushing its war of aggression in South Viet Nam to a high level of atrocity and continues to cling to the rotten, fascist administration of the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppets.

Tran Buu Kiem said: "At the previous session, the US delegate drew a parallel allegedly to "contribute to progress of the negotiations". This, however, actually aimed at to truncate and distort the proposals made by the NFL and the DRVN for a correct solution to the Viet Nam issue. On the other hand, he cast aside the important questions that must be settled, thus putting a big obstacle on the road to progress of the conference. The US delegate again spoke of the myth about "North Viet Nam's aggression against South Viet Nam" and resorted to round about contentions to elude the urgent demands of South Vietnamese people, namely, *the US must stop clinging to the Saigon puppet administration, withdraw unconditionnaly all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people decide their own affairs according to the NFL Political program, without foreign interference.* In fact, the US is still unwilling to give up its aggressive design and its neo-colonialist scheme in South Viet Nam and unwilling to respect the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, namely independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity and ultimate peaceful reunification of the Fatherland".

Tran Buu Kiem proved with concrete evidence that the Nixon administration while talking of "peace" has continued at an accelerated pace its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, launched many terror raids and used B-52 planes to bomb densely populated areas. Recently, using the pretext of countering the PLAF attacks, the US and its puppets have committed bloody massacres such as the saturation bombing of Tam Hiep village of 2.000 Catholic inhabitants on February 23, the killing of 24 Catholics at a time in My Thanh Dong village by US "air cav" troops on February 24...

He rejected the allegations of the US and Saigon delegates who at the previous session made vile slanders against the NFL and protested against PLAF attacks on US and puppet troops at their lairs in South Viet Nam. He laid emphasis on *the sacred inviolable right of the South Vietnamese people who, under the leadership of the NFL, are resolved to punish the US aggressors and their stooges anywhere and at any time so long as they continue their war of aggression.* He pointed to the evident failure of the US in South Viet Nam and the irretrievable collapse of the Saigon lackey administration, a handful of bellicose and fascist traitors spurned by the entire vietnamese people and whom the South Viet Nam urban population are resolved to overthrow, in order to form a peace-restoring cabinet qualified to talk seriously with the NFL at the Paris conference.

Tran Buu Kiem stressed that the legitimate demand of the South Vietnamese people and the people of Viet Nam as a whole are also the aspirations of the american people and the peace and justice-loving people in the world. That is the US must withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam without any conditions.

He said: "Only when the US stops its war of aggression and pulls out unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people decide themselves their own destiny without foreign interference. And only then can US and satellite troops be safe from attacks by the PLAF and people of South Viet Nam".

Tran Buu Kiem condemned the stubborn attitude of the US government which, though suffering heavy setbacks on the battlefield, still harbours the illusion of "negotiating in a position of strength". He held the US government entirely responsible for the lack of progress at the Paris conference.

An Quang Pagoda, buddhist movement centre in Saigon city, after a bombing by US aircraft.

US-PUPPETS' NEW CRIMES IN SOUTH VIET NAM

On and around Tet festal day, US-puppet troops launched terrorist operations and used artillery and aircraft, including B-52s, to strike indiscriminately at many areas of South Viet Nam, committing new crimes against the population.

On Feb. 15 morning, B-52s attacked Hue Xanh hamlet and a culvert at Thieu Hung 1km from the provincial capital of Tra Vinh. The same day, American superfortresses rained about 1,000 tons of bombs on an area North of Tan Uyen, Thu Dau Mot province.

On Feb. 16 — Tet festal day — after 8 p.m., that is, 27 hours after the NFL Central Committee's order of suspension of military operations, or 2 hours after the US - puppets' "cease-fire" order, had come into force, B-52s struck several times at the western region of Thua Thien and B-52s bombed several mountain areas of the province until dawn the next day. B-52s, on the other hand, dropped 1,200 tons of bombs on a horse-shoe-shaped region to the North of Saigon, while other enemy aircraft showered CBUs and delayed-action bombs on Binh Hoa and Binh Phong Thanh hamlets. Kien Tuong province, and uninterruptedly shelled many villages South West of Di Linh, Lam Dong province, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In Long An, US-puppet planes never ceased circling over Duc Hoa, Duc Hue and Ba Thu districts where waterways were systematically attacked. A dozen tons of bombs and countless rockets caused a lot of damages to the civilian population in Duc Hue. In My Tho, an intensive shelling along a river in Cai Be district killed 4 people, among them 3 children, and wounded 2 women.

On Feb. 17, B-52s went into action in Several regions of Quang Tri and Thua Thien at 1 a.m., and in many others later in the day. In Phuoc Long, a small area 15km from the provincial capital was subjected to successive air strikes.

On Feb. 18 and 19. B-52s dropped about 1,000 tons of bombs on the provinces around Saigon. Meanwhile, enemy air force bombed and shelled along the rivers Ong Doc and Dong Cung in Ca Mau: in the two villages of Phong Lac and Hung My alone, a number of people were killed and many families made homeless.

Describing the fierceness of B-52 raids, Radio Saigon said on Feb. 19: "Last night and to day morning B-52s rained more than 2 millions pounds of explosives along the Cambodian border, North West of Saigon. According to *AP*, Feb. 22, in two weeks (Feb. 10-22) B.52s made 432 sorties and dropped 46,656 bombs totalling 12,960 tons around.

The afore-mentioned crimes have aroused a wave of indignation among the South Vietnamese people and in the world.

All men of conscience strongly protest and condemn the US imperialists and demand that they renounce their "B-52 policy" in their dirty war in South Viet Nam.

A surgical operation

To american friends who are struggling against the dirty war in Viet Nam

THE day was ending. In the west, the clouds turned red, as if dipped in blood. Artillery shells were still falling along the stoned road, but only sporadically. A blown-up tank lay half submerged in a flooded ricefield, near the road where bits of its tracks were scattered.

In the underground operating-room, a relaxed atmosphere prevailed. The last wounded Liberation soldier had been operated on and had been carried away. The surgeon took off his mask, drew a long breath of air and sat down on a bench at the entrance to the cave. The nurse also took off her white gown and fanned herself. In a corner, the "power-house operator", perched on a bicycle frame with the rear wheel connected to an electric generator, stopped pedalling and lighted a cigarette.

For three days and three nights, they had worked hard to save the lives of a dozen Liberation soldiers who had been wounded while taking part in an ambush which had resulted in the total annihilation of an American armoured convoy. Surgeon, nurse and "power-house operator" had not had a wink of sleep. Only through a miracle of will and resolve had they managed to keep their eyes open. The surgeon's legs seemed to him as heavy as if made of lead.

But now they could relax. The surgeon stood up after a while, stretched himself and said in a voice with the characteristic accent of the central provinces:

"Well, let's put things in order and take some rest. There may be more work tomorrow".

It was then that someone stepped in. He was the director of the hospital and his face showed that he had some important news to tell. More wounded comrades to take care of? The surgeon hastily put on his cap and the nurse reached for her gown. "Comrades," said the director, "the leading committee know that you have worked very hard for several days and nights. However we shall ask you to spend one more sleepless night...»

The surgeon glanced at his collaborators, who all looked exhausted but whose eyes shone with determination and eagerness.

"All right, comrade director," he said slowly, "I must say that we are all very tired. But even if we should work several more nights to save the lives of wounded comrades, we would gladly do so."

"For the sake of our dear comrades," added the nurse, "we are always ready."

The hospital director looked embarrassed,

"The wounded man is not one of our comrades," he said hesitatingly. "He is an American.".

"An American?" the surgeon exclaimed in surprise.

The director nodded. "Yes, an American soldier, wounded in the head. We have been asked to do everything in our power to save him."

A long silence fell. Each man retired pensively to a corner. The "power-house man" again saddled his bike, puffing away at his cigarette. The surgeon took off his cap and crumpled it in his hand. The nurse tossed her gown on a table and sat down on a bench, her face drawn. The air turned stifling, it seemed, in the underground operating room.

The hospital director bit his lips and looked at the three people in turn. This reaction was what he had expected when the matter was discussed at the meeting of the leading committee. But he would have to cope with it. Now he tried to interest the surgeon and his assistants in how the American had been caught:

"Our comrades told me that during the battle, when a B.40 bazooka shell hit an american tank, they had seen a man projected out of it into a bush. When they rushed up to him, they saw that he was an American Negro soldier, who had recovered to surrender...

But nobody was interested. A painful silence continued to reign in the underground operating room. Suddenly a voice cried out, "No, I can't do it... I can't save a murderer..." It was the nurse. Her body was shaken by sobs. Everyone felt a pang in his heart, for all knew how much this gentle and devoted nurse had suffered at the hands of the enemy.

Only some time ago she had learnt that her fiancé had lost a leg in a battle against the Americans in Eastern Nam Bo. They were deeply in love with each other and this was quite a hard blow for her. Their common friends asked themselves whether she would have the courage to marry him, an invalid. But the young girl simply went to the convalescent centre and asked that the marriage be celebrated. She looked quite happy, but there was deep resolve in her voice when she told her sweetheart: "The Americans want to destroy our happiness, but they will not succeed. I'll go to battle in your place. One day the occasion will be given me to make the enemy pay for their crimes!"

And now she was asked to participate in a surgical operation to save the life of an enemy soldier, perhaps the very one who had made a cripple of her husband.

With tears running down her cheeks, she came up to the hospital director and repeated, "You must understand... I can't do it."

The hospital director took her arm and made her sit back on her stool. As he stood there in the middle of the room, about to say something, the electrical operator left his bike, came up to him in long strides, unbottoned his dark green shirt and bared his chest covered with deep scars:

"Look, comrade director," he said," you yourself operated on me not long ago. You took away an eye which had been injured beyond recovery and stitched deep gashes on my body. Now I no longer have enough strength left to fight at the front and must content myself with pedalling that bike to generate electricity for operations to be performed on wounded comrades. How can I work to save the life of one of those criminals, who have been ravaging our country and have made an invalid of me?"

"Yes, I know," said the director softly, patting his comrade's shoulder. "I know that every one of us still carries wounds caused by the american aggressors These wounds still bleed..."

He stopped. In a flash he remembered his own little girl at home. Taken up by his work in the resistance against the French colonialists, he had married very late. But hardly had a girl been born to him and his wife when he again had to take up arms to fight against the american aggressors. For years, now he had been unable to visit his family. Only on rare occasions had he received news from them. A few days ago, he had received a letter from his daughter. "Dear Dad, how sadly we miss you," the child had written. "Fight the Yanks hard, drive them away and return to live with us." To him, too, the Americans had robbed many, many days of happiness. But now he could not say it to his friends. This, he realized, would only pour oil on the fire.

Repressing his pain, the director went on, "whenever we think of our homeland devastated, our countrymen massacred, and so many families separated by the enemy, we can't save a yankee aggressor. The point is not to avenge ourselves for their outraging our personal feelings. The point is the just cause for which our people have been fighting over the past twenty years and more. To kill a GI is not a difficult job, but to remould him into an honest man, a man with a human conscience is not that easy. The GIs are told we we're cruel and savage, that they'll be beheaded or have their noses cut off if they fall into our hands. We reply to the Yankees: To punish them for their crime of aggression against our sacred fatherland, we can kill tens of thousands in combat; however, our revolutionary army don't waste a single bullet on those who have surrendered. We feed those who are in good health and take care of the wounded. That's the policy of the NFL, the traditions of humanity of the vietnamese people. That's what we have been doing, and that's what we shall do in future with regard to the american soldiers, particularly to the Black American who will dissociate themselves from this dirty war of aggression and cross to our side."

(To be continued)

DINH PHONG

THE ARAB PEOPLES WILL SURELY WIN

TENSION is growing in the Middle East. At the instigation of the American imperialists and with their help, the reactionary Israeli authorities are stepping up their provocations against the Arab countries: they attacked many populated areas of Syria, Jordan and the United Arab Republic with aircraft, tanks and cannons, launched a raid on Beirut airfield; struck at Damas suburbs and the Suez area, creating a tense situation there. In the areas still under their occupation since their brutal war against the Arab peoples in June 1967, they kept terrorizing and massacring the population, arresting thousands of people to herd them into concentration camps, razing many places and compelling scores of thousands of others to leave their homes.

The American imperialists and their lackeys are scheming to "hurry the build-up of allied forces" and carry out regular manoeuvres in the Mediterranean with the aim of browbeating the national liberation movement of the Arab peoples.

The above-mentioned towering crimes of the reactionary Israeli clique are nothing but the continuation of their brutal acts of aggression against the Arab countries in the recent past.

It is clear that the reactionary Israeli authorities abetted by the imperialists — especially the American — are plunging head - along in their scheme of aggression, encroaching on the independence and sovereignty of the Arab countries and causing tension in the Middle East.

These scheme and acts are rousing anger among the world people. The International Meeting for Solidarity with the Arab Peoples on January 25-28, 1969 in Cairo is a splendid illustration of the militant solidarity of the Afro-Asian peoples and of the world people as a whole with the just struggle of the Arab peoples against the scheme of aggression of the American imperialists and the reactionary Israeli clique.

The South Vietnamese people vehemently condemn the bellicose acts of the reactionary Israeli authorities and their bosses — the American imperialists. They demand that the aggressors withdraw all their troops from the Arab territories they are impudently occupying, and respect the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people. In his message of January 20, 1969 to the International Meeting for Solidarity with the Arab Peoples in Cairo, lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, pointed out: "We pledge full support to the struggle of the Arab peoples for national independence and sovereignty and the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people against the cruel and perfidious scheme of the American and British imperialists and their lackeys — the Israeli aggressors".

Standing on the forefront of the struggle against the American imperialists in Southeast Asia, the South Vietnamese people thoroughly sympathize with the just, arduous and protracted fight of the Arab peoples, and are confident that with the support and assistance of the peace-and justice-loving people the world over, the liberation struggle of the Arab and Palestinian peoples against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and their lackeys — with American imperialism at their head — will certainly win.

The Asian, African and Latin American peoples side with us

THE whole world stand by us. The peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, in particular, are giving an important contribution to the great victories of the South Vietnamese people's resistance against the American aggressors.

Considering our people's patriotic fight a most active part of the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress, the peoples and many governments of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been rendering all-sided support to the South Vietnamese people and the National Front for Liberation.

Implementing the resolution of the Indochinese People's Conference held in March 1965 on the initiative of the Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk, the Khmer and Lao peoples are intensifying their activities to help the South Vietnamese people drive out the American aggressors so that the three fraternal peoples may live in genuine peace, independence and freedom.

The socialist countries of Asia: the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia have always lent us timely support, which they regard as their lofty internationalist duty. The Chinese people consider their vast country a steady rear for the Viet Nam front. As Chairman Mao Tse Tung stated, "The 700 million Chinese and the immense territory of China constitute a steady rear of Vietnamese people in their resistance against American aggression, for national salvation". Suffering from the partition of their country as we do for many years and deeply sympathizing with us, the fraternal Korean people, under the clearsighted leadership of Premier Kim Il Sung, have provided us with wholehearted assistance. Together with the other socialist countries, the People's Revolutionary Party, the Government and people of Mongolia are pushing ahead the movement for support and aid to fighting South Viet Nam.

The struggle of the Japanese people to back ours is seething and continual: it like a bright star among the struggles of peoples in the capitalist countries in support of our people. Despite fierce repression by the reactionary Sato administration, the Japanese people have staged series of meetings, demonstrations, strikes and fund-raising drives to help us. This struggle has drawn all popular strata. To the same end, in Pakistan, Malaysia, India, Thailand, people from various walks of life are stepping up their activities in an effective and more timely way.

From Algeria and the United Arab Republic to Tanzania, and Camerun, everywhere the African peoples highly praise our patriotic struggle against American aggression. In September 1967, President Houari Boumédienne declared: "The revolution waged by the South Vietnamese people constitutes a shining example for those struggling against imperialism, for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress". The Governments and peoples of the above said countries have sought every opportunity to help the Vietnamese morally and materially.

Various strata of the people in Latin America are also channelling their activities to supporting South Viet Nam. In response to the appeal by their leader, Fidel Castro "to sacrify even our blood for Viet Nam", the Cuban people regard the Vietnamese as their comrades-in-arms fighting the same trench and devote all their energies to help them in the common struggle against the common enemy. The fraternal Cuban people have nurtured warmest feelings for the National Front for Liberation and the South Vietnamese people. Cuba has dedicated the year 1967 to heroic Viet Nam, organizing many drives of struggle against the US step - up of the war and demanding that the American Government end its aggression, withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Tricontinental Organization and the Tricontinental Committee for support to Viet Nam have been closely following the situation in Viet Nam and coordinating its struggle with our people's. It has issued an appeal calling on its member organizations and progressive bodies the world over to hold a Viet Nam Support Week in from March 17 to 23 aimed at demanding that the United States withdraw unconditionally all US and its satellite troops from South Viet Nam and liquidate all US military bases there, to let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs according to the political program of the South Viet-Nam National Front for Liberation without foreign interference. Moreover by means of printed documents, films, photos, etc., the committee propagate the line and policies of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and introduce the realities of our resistance to the world people.

The support and assistance in every field of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America constitute a stimulus for our people in their fight against the US aggressors through to the end. We sincerely thank them, the Permanent Secretariat of the Tricontinental Organization, the Tricontinental Committee for Support to Viet Nam, and progressive people around the world for having warmly encouraged and helped our people, and constantly sided with us in the common struggle against American imperialism, the obdurate and bellicose international gendarme, the enemy of the peoples of the three continents and of all mankind.

United millions as one, the peoples of Viet Nam, of Asia, Africa, Latin America and progressive people in the world will surely win total victory.

ANH TUAN

PHILATELY

Many sets of postage stamps are issued every year by the NFL. Some of them are listed hereunder:

— Ready for attack *(left)*

— Election of People's Revolutionary Committees in the liberated zone *(above)*

— Facing the enemy *(below)*

— A woman guerilla *(right)*

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

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